

AUSGEWÄHLTE WERKE. VON P. J. MÖBIUS. Band I. J. J. ROUSSEAU. Johann Ambrosius Barth, Leipzig.

We open this work of Möbius' with some interest, remembering an earlier edition of the same, and our attention is riveted on the introduction, in which the life history of the first edition is sketched with a serio-humorous pen. Möbius tells us that his work on matters of this kind is his relaxation, his play time, and he writes because it amuses him, and if the less serious of his literary fruits should be financially productive, he is glad of it, but if not, then he offers his publishers condolences and were he French would probably shrug his shoulders.

In 1889 he published his first work on Rousseau. It was well received. Möbius quotes the good words of many of the reviewers. They offered content to his soul. But he did not hear from his publishers for a long time—a very long time—and on investigation found that only about 324 copies had been sold. By 1896 the deficit on the books of his publishers was 50 marks. In 1889, 394 marks were received, in 1890, 262 marks, in the next six years 40 marks 50 pfg., in all 899 marks. The final deficit was 17 marks 80 pfg. Surely, our envy does not include the German publisher, or author, but, as Möbius puts it: "It cost him a year's work, and at least 100 marks in outlay, but he had his fun, but as for the publisher he had nothing but annoyance and vexation."

At all events, Möbius tries it again, giving us a reëdited, enlarged and rewritten volume dealing with the pathological aspects of Rousseau's mental life.

Möbius is not a faddist. We do not find him running after any single cause theory to account for Rousseau's troubles. An uncut foreskin, a weak eye muscle, a slightly prolapsed stomach, or hyperchlorhydria do not seem to enter into his summary of causes, notwithstanding the many advocates of these etiological factors as causative of all woe. He sketches in a clear and an attractive manner the times and the surroundings and their effects on Rousseau's mental development.

A study of this type seems to us to be worth while. It is a conscientious effort to paint a picture of a great man, by the impalpable colors that he has left behind in his writings. Errors are bound to creep in, but the method of handling is such that it commends itself to all who try to think logically and to reach conclusions by processes as rational as the individual make up will permit.

That Rousseau became mentally unbalanced, there is little doubt. A certain amount of interest is centered in the study of the type of mental malady that he developed. This, according to Möbius, was a paranoia which slowly evolved over a period of many years.

Like many others of the author's works, this is suggestive and interesting. We hope for it a much larger sale than was accorded the earlier work, of 1889.

THAYER.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGIE LEGALE GÉNÉRALE. COURS FAIT À L'UNIVERSITÉ DE SAINT-PÉTERSBOURG. PAR PROF. PAUL KOVALEVSKY, M.D. Vigot Frères, Paris.

The students of the University of St. Petersburg are fortunate in being able to hear this course of lectures of Dr. Kovalevsky, if the printed volume that covers his course offers any criterion.

In a previous volume the author considered the subject of criminal psychology, in which a complete exposition of the multiple causation of crime, the general and special symptomatology was made. The present series discusses the subject of legal psychopathology.

Under this head the author includes all that category of mental deviations from the average by reason of which individuals come in conflict

with the established social orders, and by reason of such strife become the subject of judicial inquiry.

In the elaboration of his scheme the author has first considered the normal mental life—so-called—under the head of psychology—his second inquiry turns on the pathological deviations of human mental activities, which come in contact with general judicial procedure, and, thirdly, he discusses those special or particular pathological deviations that are of most interest to the legal representatives of society.

The work, a small one, is one of much interest, and is entitled to serious consideration by all who are at all interested in medico-legal questions. There are some very excellent chapters on the traumatic psychoses, the puerperal state and its mental deviations, mental troubles following abortion, simulation, and remissions and intermissions in criminal psychopathology.

POPE.